

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Stewardship ~ Rick Ritz

A read-through of the Bulletin of Annual Reports and the accompanying Financial Statements shows the depth and breadth of Stewardship at work here at Trinity. Our ministries and programs are vibrant, full of loving care for our fellow members, but also outwardly focussed on helping and caring for those outside our parish (whether in our immediate community, the church at-large, or worldwide).

This year's Stewardship initiative explored what it means to "love our neighbours as ourselves". While there is always room for improvement, we should rejoice in the knowledge that we take seriously the motto of the Eastern Synod — "In Mission for Others". Trinity's members back this up with good stewardship; sharing their resources of time, talent, and possessions so that we can fulfill this motto in the parish, in our community, and to the far-reaches of the globe.

Many of our members returned their stewardship forms indicating their willingness to serve in various ministries, as well as making a financial commitment. In affirmation of the "First Fruits" philosophy, five new PAR applications were received in the responses. Many others included special thank you notes. You'll be hearing more about this in future editions of TRINITY DOVE.

At this time, I'd like to thank the fellow members of the Stewardship Task Group (Audrey Cook, Carol Merner, Peter Schmidt, Trevor Anderson) for the many hours of meeting time and thinking time. Also, thanks to the 22 who offered to open their homes to the congregation for our Cottage Meetings; to Dean Clarke and Cristina Vanin for their leadership at Adult Ed; to the Cottage Meeting Presenters (Don Jardin, Neil Klaassen, Peter Schmidt, Rob Murray, Trevor Anderson); and finally thanks to *everyone who practises good stewardship* by giving of yourself, your time, and your possessions!

Rick Ritz
Stewardship Portfolio

✚ Finance ~ Rick Ritz

We started 2009 amid global economic uncertainty, which resulted in concern over our ability to meet our financial obligations and aspirations. Not only did we meet our obligations, we managed to solidify our motto "In Mission for Others" by increasing our support of outside ministries by 23%, while at the same time increasing our own bank balance by some \$14,000 after all the bills were paid!

This was accomplished by a blend of careful spending, great Stewardship, and a willingness to forge ahead in spite of a gloomy economic outlook.

The financial news continues to get better when you look at our Endowment Fund. The decision to have ELFEC manage our Capital resulted in a 20% improvement in the money available to support a number of internal & external ministries (see details on page 7 of the main section of the *Bulletin of Reports* and on page 7 of this financial section of the *Bulletin of Reports*).

Unlike a business, our mission is not to make profit, but to positively impact as many people as we can with the resources we have. A business measures success by what is left over at the end of the year. For us to be successful, we will always be looking at giving away, rather than amassing wealth.

The single largest portion of our support for others is our contribution to the work of the Synod. On page 8 of this financial section of the *Bulletin of Reports* is a summary of how The Easter Synod uses the resources we share with it as we all go about God's work.

Rick Ritz
Finance Portfolio